

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 02684 031210Z
ACTION INT-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-08 /024 W
-----103039 031213Z /17

P R 031120Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6770
INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

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PASS USGS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TPHY, NI, US
SUBJECT: TENTH INTERNATIONAL REMOTE SENSING WORKSHOP, EROS DATA
CENTER, SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA, MAY 1-26, 1978

REF: (A) LAGOS 01379, (B) STATE 017623

1. JOHN B. OMOTUNDE OF FEDERAL MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES
FMWR), ONE OF TWO NIGERIAN CANDIDATES ACCEPTED FOR SUBJECT
WORKSHOP, HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT HE IS MOST DESIROUS OF
ATTENDING WORKSHOP BUT FMWR WILL NOT BE ABLE TO COMPLY WITH
REQUIREMENT FOR DOLLARS 400 NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT TO BE MADE
TO USGS BY MARCH 1. MAIN REASON IS CUMBERSOME FMG FOREIGN
EXCHANGE REMITTANCE PROCESS. EMBASSY INFORMED FMWR ON
JANUARY 245 IMMEDIATELY AFTER RECEIVING REFTEL B THAT OMOTUNDE
ACCEPTED. FMWR SENT LETTER TO MINISTRY OF FINANCE REQUESTING
APPROVAL FOR RELEASE OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE ON FEBRUARY 15.
OMOTUNDE EXPECTS THAT MINFINANCE WILL APPROVE APPLICATION BY
END FEBRUARY OR BEGINNING MARCH. APPROVED APPLICATION
APPARENTLY MUST THEN GO FROM FINANCE TO MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS, WHICYSPOUCHES IT TO NIGERIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON,
WHICH WILL IN TURN ISSUE A CHECK IN DOLLARS TO USGS. GIVEN
INEVITABLE DELAYS IN BOTH PAPERWORK AND MAIL SERVICE, WOULD
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NOT ANTICIPATE USGS RECEIVING CHECK UNTIL LATTER PART OF APRIL.
PAYMENT OF FULL TUITION WILL PROBABLY RUN INTO SAME DELAYS.

2. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING IF USGS CAN GRANT EXTENSION
IN CASE OF OMOTUNDE (AND PRESUMABLY ALSO IN CASE OF NKERUWEN
OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN KADUNA). TRAINING OFFERED BY WORKSHOP
WOULD BE IDEAL FOR FMWR, AND OMOTUNDE MOST ANXIOUS TO ATTEND.

NIGERIA HAS GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP ALREADY WITH USGS IN CONNECTION WITH NEW FEDERAL CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT, AND THIS WOULD BE REINFORCE IF USGS CAN ACCOMMODATE FMWR. EMBASSY ALSO FEELS THIS WOULD ENHANCE OUR DEALINGS WITH FMWR WITH REGARD TO COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. FIRMS IN NIGERIAN WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. WE REALIZE MAKING EXCEPTION IN THIS CASE MAY CAUSE OTHERS TO REQUEST SIMILAR TREATMENT AND CAUSE ACCOUNTING HEADACHES FOR USGS. HOWEVER, FMWR IS VICTIM OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROL PROCESS WHICH IS BEYOND ITS CONTROL. MOREOVER, WHILE FMG FREQUENTLY RUNS INTO DELAYS WITH OVERSEAS TUITION PAYMENTS, PAST EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN IT DOES EVENTUALLY PAY ITS BILLS.
EASUM

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REMOTE SENSING, SEMINARS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAGOS02684
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780097-0799
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803110/aaaadpqh.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b1a424b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION INT
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LAGOS 1379, 78 STATE 17623
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3130618
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TENTH INTERNATIONAL REMOTE SENSING WORKSHOP, EROS DATA CENTER, SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA, MAY 1-26, 1978
TAGS: TPHY, NI, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b1a424b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014